

Acton Dog Park -- Alignment with Acton 20/20 Comprehensive Community Plan

This table illustrates how the proposed dog park aligns with the Acton 20/20 Comprehensive Community Plan.

Goals and Objectives: Acton 20/20 Community Plan	Acton Dog Park Committee Plan
Goal 1: Preserve and Enhance Town Character Dog parks are becoming more popular throughout New England and considered a value-added investment for citizens.	
Objective 1.2 Preserve and enhance key centers.	ADPC is only considering current land in the possession of the town. An enclosed dog park will preserve and enhance any property chosen. The 348-364 Main Street parcels provide an opportunity to beautify a centrally located parcel and open its use to a large population.
Objective 1.3 Preserve rural characteristics and open space.	The proposed dog park will be two to three acres in size and will utilize natural elements (trees, turf, stone, wood) in keeping with Acton's rural characteristics.
Goal 2: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	
Objective 2.2 Reduce waste and accumulation of toxins.	The dog park will feature waste stations for appropriate disposal of pet waste to reduce impact on the environment. Park users will be educated on the impact of dog waste on the environment, encouraging sustainable practices throughout town.
Goal 3: Improve Connections	
Objective 3.1 Make walking and biking easier and safer	One of the considerations for the dog park is that it is easily accessible, situated in a location that has access to sidewalks, and can be safely accessed by pedestrians and cars.
Objective 3.3 Promote communication among Town government, citizens, schools, and business community.	Dog parks are communal places that draw on all citizens with varied connection to town government, schools, and business. Situating a dog park at 348-364 Main Street would be favorable for businesses, attracting additional patrons to nearby shops, banks, and gas stations.
Goal 4: Provide More Opportunities for Community Gathering and Recreation	
Objective 4.1 Create new gathering spaces and make better use of existing ones.	A dog park will create a new gathering space for dogs, dog owners, and dog lovers. At 348-364 Main Street, it would turn an unused, currently unattractive parcel into a lively, attractive community asset.
Objective 4.2 Provide more playgrounds, fields for team sports, parks, and conservation lands.	A dog park for the dogs, dog-owners, and non-dog owners to visit will provide an additional option not currently available to Acton residents.
Goal 6: Preserve and Enhance Town-Owned Assets and Services	
Objective 6.1: Protect Town-owned open space.	The dog park will protect current town-owned land from development, maintaining its open character, improving accessibility, and enabling access by all interested citizens.

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Objective 6.4: Provide high quality services that are responsive to community needs.	Acton's Board of Selectmen initially charged the ADPC with determining whether there is a need and/or desire to have a dog park. In a 2017 survey conducted by the ADPC, 78% of over 600 respondents indicated they would support the creation of a dog park in Acton; and 63% indicated they would use a dog park. The committee maintains a database of nearly 300 users who have asked to be kept informed about the dog park's progress.
Goal 7: Maintain and Improve the Financial Well-Being of the Town	
Objective 7.1: Promote fiscal responsibility.	A dog park is a financially sound investment. While the park will provide social and economic benefits, we anticipate the town will assume no financial burden whatsoever, with the exception of providing the land itself. The Stanton Foundation supports the development of enclosed dog parks in Massachusetts cities and towns, typically funding 100% of design costs and 90% of the cost to build. The ADPC is also pursuing CPA funding (for the 10% construction match) and will also consider fundraising options such as memberships to offset ongoing maintenance costs.